

## Message Text

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43

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-07 SP-03 SS-20 RSC-01 CIAE-00

INR-11 NSAE-00 DODE-00 EB-11 OMB-01 TRSE-00 DPW-01

IO-14 ACDA-19 SAM-01 PRS-01 DRC-01 /113 W

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R 121147Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0782

INFO CINCPAC

S E C R E T VIENTIANE 7071

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, LA

SUBJECT: REDUCTION OF FAR TROOP STRENGTH

REF: VIENTIANE 6899

1. GENERAL TREFRY AND I MET WITH DEFENSE MINISTER SISOUK, CINCFAR AND THE SENIOR FAR STAFF ON 11 SEPTEMBER, AND WERE BRIEFED ON THE FAR PLAN FOR REDUCING ITS FORCE LEVEL TO APPROXIMATELY 44,000 MEN BY THE END OF FY 75.

2. THE PROPOSAL APPEARED TO BE WELL THOUGHT OUT AND REASONABLE. THE MAJOR PROBLEM WHICH SURFACED WAS THE PROPOSAL THAT VANG PAO'S FORCES IN MR II BE REDUCED TO APPROXIMATELY 3,800 MEN FROM THE APPROXIMATELY 7,000 HE CLAIMS AT THIS TIME. THE ISSUE EVOLVES AROUND THE DEMOBILIZATION AND/OR TRANSFER OF SOLDIERS CURRENTLY IN THE SECOND STRIKE BRIGADE. THE FAR PROPOSAL ENVISAGED THE CREATION OF A BRIGADE SIZE REACTION FORCE MADE UP OF ELEMENTS TRANSFERRED FROM VARIOUS UNITS BUT IT DID NOT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE FACT THAT MOST, IF NOT ALL THE SOLDIERS IN THE SECOND BRIGADE ARE MEO AND THEREFORE VANG PAO'S TROOPS.

3. THE FAR STAFF COMPLAINED THAT IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE

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FOR THEM TO ESTABLISH HOW MANY SOLDIERS VANG PAO

ACTUALLY HAD ON HIS ROLES AS HE INSISTS ON MAINTAINING AN INDIVIDUAL FIEFDOM. IT WAS AGREED THAT THE AMBASSADOR AND DEFENSE MINISTER SISOUK WOULD DISCUSS THE FORCE LEVEL QUESTION WITH VANG PAO AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

4. CONCERN WAS EXPRESSED BY VARIOUS MEMBERS OF THE FAR STAFF REGARDING THE CONOMIC AND SOCIAL CONSEQUENCES OF THE CEMOBILIZATION OF APPROXIMATELY 10,000 MEN. THE AMBASSADOR POINTED OUT THAT THIS PROBLEM REQUIRED DETAILED ANALYSIS AND REQUESTED THE FAR STAFF TO PREPARE A BREAKOUT OF THE NUMBERS OF SOLDIERS TO BE DEMOBILIZED IN EACH MILITARY REGION. HE URGED THAT CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN AT A FUTURE MEETING TO PHASING THE DEMOBILIZATION IN LINE WITH THE AGRICULTURAL CYCLE AND POSSIBLE JOB OPPORTUNITIES RATHER THAN PROCEEDING WITH IDENTICAL REDUCTIONS IN EACH QUARTER. IT WAS AGREED THAT A MEETING ON THIS SUBJECT WOULD BE HELD ON 16 SEPTEMBER AT WHICH TIME AVAILABILITY OF LAND FOR THE RESETTLEMENT OF VETERANS AND OTHER MATTERS RELATING TO THEIR ORDERLY DEMOBILIZATION WOULD BE CONSIDERED.

WHITEHOUSE

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MILITARY PERSONNEL, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, TROOP REDUCTIONS, FORCE & TROOP LEVELS, MILITARY PLANS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 12 SEP 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** kelleyw0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974VIENTI07071  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D740254-1092  
**From:** VIENTIANE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
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**Line Count:** 85  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EA  
**Original Classification:** SECRET  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** SECRET  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** VIENTIANE 6899  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** kelleyw0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 07 AUG 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <07-Aug-2002 by cunninfx>; APPROVED <06 MAR 2003 by kelleyw0>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** REDUCTION OF FAR TROOP STRENGTH  
**TAGS:** PFOR, MASS, LA, (TREFRY), (SISOUK)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005